



Fact Sheet:

California Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment Program



On September 30, 2003, the Governor's Office received a \$17.4 million grant from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment for the California Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment (CASBIRT) Program. The purpose of the grant is to reduce substance abuse by intervening and screening non-dependent users and referring those individuals who are dependent to community treatment services. This effort involves partnerships between the Governor's Office, the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, the County of San Diego, and multiple healthcare providers.

Screening, brief intervention, referral and treatment are designed to intervene with this large population to reduce avoidable future problems and their associated health, social and economic costs.

Engaging non-dependent users during medical visits, through routine screenings or by providing appropriate interventions, brief treatment services or referral to specialized treatment, is key to a successful program. Medical visits are considered "teachable moments" for 80 percent of the general population.

San Diego County is a leader in this effort. The pioneering work in San Diego has resulted in the development of an efficient service

delivery and implementation model, the creation of public policy in collaboration with medical organizations, local government and ongoing funding opportunities. The San Diego County CASBIRT model will be expanded to additional hospitals, trauma centers, and community clinics in San Diego.

The expected program outcomes include:

- Reducing drug use by non-dependent users by 25 percent
- Reducing alcohol consumption to a low-risk level
- Reducing alcohol consumption by 50 percent of non-dependent drinkers

The Governor's Prevention Advisory Council serves as the CASBIRT State-level Policy Steering Committee. The purpose of the sub-committee, composed of State departments with an interest in health care and public safety, administrators and executives from health organizations, and CASBIRT project staff, is to address financing and policy issues for future expansion of services.